



A NEW DIRECTION FOR AMERICA

One year ago, the American people demanded a New Direction. Six years of indifference and inaction had left the American people wondering who would take their side.

The 110th Congress brought new faces and new energy. In January, the first woman Speaker of the House in American history gavelled open the Congress with a pledge to make its work about America's children. Passage of the Six for '06 agenda, within the first 100 hours and with broad bipartisan support, signaled change and a new focus on American priorities.

Despite the obstacles thrown up by the President's veto and his allies in Congress who sustained it, much progress was made in the first year of the New Direction...to **Make America Safer** ...**Restore the American Dream**...and **Restore Accountability** and fiscal responsibility to Washington.

MAKING AMERICA SAFER

- ☒ 9/11 Commission Recommendations to Protect America from Terrorism
- ☒ Largest Veterans' Health Care Funding Increase in History
- ☒ Energy Security and Reducing Global Warming
- ☒ Holding the Administration Accountable For the War in Iraq

RESTORING THE AMERICAN DREAM

- ☒ Largest College Aid Expansion Since the GI Bill in 1944
- ☒ First Increase in the Minimum Wage in a Decade
- ☒ Innovation Agenda Promoting 21st Century Jobs in a Global Economy
- ☒ Aid to the Gulf Coast Recovering from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
- ☒ A Tax Cut for 19 Million Middle Income Americans Facing the AMT
- ☒ Health Care for 10 Million Children

RESTORING ACCOUNTABILITY

- ☒ Widely-acclaimed Landmark Lobby and Ethics Reform
- ☒ Pay-as-you-go Budget Discipline - No New Deficit Spending (Rule Adopted)

☒ Signed Into Law ☒ Passed House & Senate

A NEW DIRECTION FOR 2008

We are working to improve our **Economic Security**—to help Americans struggling with a housing crisis, credit card and college debt, rising energy and health care costs, paychecks stuck in neutral, and concerns about the safety of our food, toys, medicine and other products.

We are working to strengthen our **National Security**—rebuilding our military, supporting our troops, military families and veterans, and refocusing the fight on terrorism.

We will build on our **Energy Security** legislation—taking bold action to reduce global warming, lower energy costs, and create American jobs.



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A NEW DIRECTION FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

MAKING AMERICA SAFER

The first priority of the New Direction Congress was to get the bipartisan 9/11 Commission recommendations signed into law:

- ★ Requiring 100% screening of air cargo
- ★ Requiring 100% screening of shipping containers before they reach U.S. soil
- ★ Basing anti-terrorism funding to cities and states on risk, not politics
- ★ Improving emergency communications among first responders
- ★ Strengthening information sharing with local law enforcement
- ★ Taking aggressive steps to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

STRENGTHENING OUR MILITARY

The New Direction Congress has addressed the worst military readiness crisis since the 1970s by:

- ★ Creating a \$1 billion Strategic Readiness Fund to immediately address equipment shortfalls
- ★ Fully funding the Army and Marine Corps' needs for replenishing depleted equipment
- ★ Authorizing almost \$1 billion to provide the National Guard and Reserve critically needed equipment
- ★ Authorizing funds to begin increasing the size of the Army and the Marine Corps

HOLDING THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE WAR IN IRAQ

The following efforts by the New Direction Congress to hold the Administration accountable have been signed into law or will be soon:

- ★ Withholding most of the 2008 money that the President requested for the War in Iraq—until the Administration reports to Congress on efforts to achieve political reconciliation in Iraq and other issues
- ★ Establishing benchmarks and requiring reporting on transferring security responsibilities to the Iraqis and on political reconciliation by the Iraqi government
- ★ Imposing new reporting requirements on planning to responsibly redeploy U.S. forces from Iraq
- ★ Providing more Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, anti-IED equipment, and body armor
- ★ Prohibiting the establishment of permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq

FULFILLING OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR TROOPS AND VETERANS

The following achievements of the New Direction Congress are being signed into law:

- ★ Providing the largest veterans' funding increase in the 77-year history of the VA: \$3.7 billion over the President's budget—focusing on the 263,000 veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury
- ★ Passing the Wounded Warriors Act to clean up the scandal of inadequate care for our wounded soldiers
- ★ Giving troops a pay raise of 3.5 percent—a level the President calls "unnecessary"
- ★ Overturning the President's military health care fee increases
- ★ Providing Family Medical Leave for families of soldiers wounded in combat

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A NEW DIRECTION FOR ECONOMIC SECURITY

HARDWORKING AMERICAN FAMILIES STRUGGLE IN THE BUSH ECONOMY

- ★ Americans are demanding a New Direction for their economic security, as they continue to face rising energy prices, soaring health care costs, and the fear of possibly losing their homes.
- ★ **Record Energy Prices:** Americans are paying double the price at the pump since 2001, when President Bush took office, and three times the cost for home heating oil. The price of crude oil recently peaked at record of \$99 per barrel—nearly a fourfold increase over 2001.
- ★ **Rising Health Care Costs:** Since 2001, families' share of their employer-sponsored health care premiums have climbed \$1,500, with a record 47 million Americans without health insurance.
- ★ **Mortgage Foreclosures Skyrocket and Home Value Drop:** As many as 2 million Americans will see their mortgage rates increase in the next two years, with many of them losing their homes as a result of bad lending practices. Tens of millions of homeowners could see the value of their home—their primary investment—drop in value.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION IS OUT OF TOUCH WITH AMERICANS' NEEDS

- ★ The Bush Administration has been blindly indifferent to the economic troubles of America's families.
- ★ Claiming that the economy is strong, President Bush has borrowed his way to a false prosperity that has left millions of Americans behind.
- ★ Since 2001, the real income of a typical working age family has fallen by \$2,500.
- ★ President Bush is tied for the worst jobs record of any President since the Great Depression, with 3.1 million manufacturing jobs lost.
- ★ Republicans have turned a \$5.6 trillion ten-year projected surplus into a \$2.4 trillion deficit.
- ★ The national debt is growing by nearly \$1 million a minute, to \$9 trillion, or nearly \$30,000 per person.
- ★ Bush has now borrowed more from foreign nations than previous 42 U.S. Presidents combined.

CONGRESS IS FIGHTING FOR A NEW DIRECTION FOR STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH

- ★ The 110th Congress is taking bold action to strengthen our economy.
 - ✓ Working to make the economy fairer with the first federal **minimum wage increase** in a decade
 - ✓ Promoting American jobs and **making America competitive** in the global economy
 - ✓ Enacting an **historic energy bill** to lower energy costs and create new jobs
 - ✓ Providing **AMT tax relief** for 19 million middle-income families
 - ✓ Making college more affordable through the **largest expansion in college aid** since the GI Bill in 1944
 - ✓ Launching measures to **help Americans keep their homes** and strengthen borrower protections
 - ✓ **Restoring fiscal responsibility** to ensure a brighter future for the next generation
- ★ Our job is far from over. More must be done for middle-income families in a struggling economy. House Democratic leaders convened top experts for an economic forum to help make economic security a major focus throughout this Congress.

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A NEW DIRECTION FOR ENERGY SECURITY

The New Direction Congress' **Energy Independence and Security Act** has been signed into law—an historic bill to make America more energy independent, respond to the global warming crisis, and grow our economy. Record high prices for oil—with prices at the pump more than double the price in 2001, and heating oil costs triple that of 2001—add urgency. The legislation:

- ✓ **Strengthens national security, by lessening our dependence on foreign oil**
- ✓ **Reduces global warming**
- ✓ **Lowers energy costs for consumers**
- ✓ **Creates hundreds of thousands of new jobs and strengthens our economy**

STRENGTHENS NATIONAL SECURITY

- ★ *Increases vehicle fuel efficiency standard to 35 miles per gallon in 2020*—the first congressional increase in 32 years.
- ★ Slashes U.S. oil consumption by more than 4 million barrels per day by 2030—more than twice our daily imports from the Persian Gulf.
- ★ *Expands American-grown biofuels* to 36 billion gallons in 2022.

REDUCES GLOBAL WARMING

- ★ Cuts greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 by 24 percent of what the U.S. needs to do to help save the planet.
- ★ Increased vehicle fuel efficiency has the equivalent effect of taking 28 million vehicles off the road in 2020.
- ★ *Increases the efficiency of buildings, homes, appliances, and lighting*, reducing emissions 75 percent as much as increasing vehicle efficiency.
- ★ Makes an historic commitment to American homegrown renewable energy that reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

LOWERS ENERGY COSTS

- ★ Increased vehicle fuel efficiency will save American families \$700 to \$1,000 a year at the pump.
- ★ New fuel efficiency standards will produce \$22 billion in net annual savings for consumers in 2020.
- ★ Building, appliance, and lighting efficiency will save consumers \$400 billion through 2030.

CREATES JOBS

- ★ Massive development of biofuels and cutting-edge energy research will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs.
- ★ *Job training will prepare workers for 3 million new 'green' jobs* over 10 years
- ★ *Small businesses will be renewable energy leaders.*

The **Energy Independence and Security Act** has won expansive bipartisan support from a broad coalition of state and local elected officials, environmental, labor, faith and business communities.

DECEMBER 19, 2007



A NEW DIRECTION FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH



HEALTH CARE FOR 10 MILLION CHILDREN

The New Direction Congress has been fighting for health coverage for 10 million children:

- ★ Twice in the last few months, the Congress has passed by strong bipartisan majorities and sent to the President's desk a bill to provide health coverage for 10 million children.
- ★ President Bush has vetoed this legislation both times.
- ★ The bill protects coverage for the 6 million children already enrolled in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and enrolls 4 million more children who are already eligible

THE BILL HAS STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

The bipartisan bill providing health care for 10 million children is supported by:

- ★ 81 percent of the American people
- ★ More than 270 organizations, representing millions of Americans, including the AARP, Catholic Health Association, AMA, Easter Seals, March of Dimes, Families USA, and the YMCA
- ★ 43 Governors, including 16 Republicans; 68 Senators, including 18 Republicans; and 265 Representatives, including 45 Republicans

PRESIDENT BUSH HAS REVERSED HIMSELF

In 2004, President Bush had promised, "In a new term, we will lead an aggressive effort to enroll millions of poor children who are eligible but not signed up for government health insurance programs."

SCHIP HAS BEEN POPULAR AND COST-EFFECTIVE

Since it was created in 1997, SCHIP has always been bipartisan, cost-effective, and successful in making kids healthier:

- ★ SCHIP was created to provide health care coverage for children in working families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to afford private insurance.
- ★ A Democratic President (Bill Clinton) and a Republican-led Congress created SCHIP.
- ★ It costs less than \$3.50 a day to cover a child through SCHIP.

DEMOCRATIC-LED CONGRESS WILL KEEP FIGHTING

Supporters of a strong bipartisan SCHIP bill will continue working to develop a bill that will both cover 10 million children and have enough bipartisan support to be enacted into law.

- ★ In the last few weeks, Democratic and Republican members have held more than 20 meetings to develop a compromise bill that still covers 10 million children.
- ★ The negotiations are ongoing – but it appears that the Bush Administration is working to ensure that these negotiations will never lead to a strong bill insuring 10 million kids.
- ★ Congress will pass an extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program that will include additional funding to ensure that no children will be dropped from their health care coverage – meeting the shortfall that has been identified.